

Good Stories for Children

By Walt McDougall



THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF THEODORE GINKS, WHO FOUND THE BELT THAT MADE HERCULES STRONG

Une day ne went to sleep in a cave in Kentucky, after drinking a strange beverage called "Sourmashrye," a drink made by the Kentucky Indians that will put the strongest man asleep in a few hours, and when he awoke he discovered that his wonderful Belt of Strength was gone. Some Indian had stolen it, and poor Herelles found himself no stronger than an cules found himself no stronger than an ordinary man.

cules found himself no stronger than an ordinary man.

He wandered all over seeking for his belt, but he was so ashamed of himself that he didn't let anyone know who he was, and finally the world concluded that he had died. Nobody knew where he went, but as he was immortal and couldn't die, he simply went roaming all over, making his living as he could and hoping that some day he would recover his belt and again he the strongest man in all the world. One day a boy named Theodore Ginks found the belt.

Theodore lived in the country and went to school in the village of Hominy Hill.

Theodore lived in the country and went to school in the village of Hominy Hill. He had to walk about seven miles to and from his school every day, and you might weil imagine that he was glad when Saturday came. On Saturday he went after blackberries with Theodosia Pickering, a little girl who lived next door and of whom he was very fond. They had climbed a low hill covered with great boulders where the berries were plentiful, when Theodore discovered a hole under when Theodore discovered a hole under the rocks. It looked like a fox's den, and he dug away the earth until he could crawl in. Then he saw that there was quite a large cave beyond, and making a torch of dry grass he explored it. At the extreme end he came upon a bow, a toma-hawk, some arrows and a broad belt, all

A Terrible Punch

Of course, the boy only thought to stop the tramp for a moment, for he knew that he was a bad man and he fully expected to be almost murdered for his temerity, but to his amazement the blow sent Tincah Murphy soaring through the air for think," said one of the policemen, "and searly the seal to see nearly a mile. Over the tree-tops he sailyou'll have to come to the station house
ed, turning somersaults like a tumbler and tell this story to the Chief."

So they all went to the station house,
and he would certainly have broken his but as the Chief was out at the ball-game,
they locked them all in cells to await his

pigeon, yelling "Foul!" all the time, and he would certainly have broken his neck had he not landed in a deep swamp, where he spent an hour pulling himself out of the mud while he wondered whether it was a cyclone or a volcano that had hit him.

Of course Theodore was as much amazed as Murphy was, and the fact that he had so effectually disposed of the tramp didn't make him feel assured that he would not return at once and take revenge for the blow. He had heard him crying "Foul," and thought he would demand satisfaction, so he hurried Theodosia away as fast as he could go, and to his surprise he walked the five miles to his home in five minutes. Even that didn't make him suspect that it was the belt that was doing it, but he thought he must be dreaming. No sooner had he reached home than his father gave him ten cents and told him to take the trolley to Barntown, ten miles away, to get the doctor, as his mother had been taken ill suddenly while chopping wood. His father face, as his mother had been taken ill suddenly while chopping wood. His father face, as his mother had been taken ill needs to the bar taken ill suddenly while chopping wood. His father face, as his mother had been taken ill needs the boys laugh and jeer, and so, to convince them, he took the bat and struck the ball. It vanished high in the truck the brass hand-bar he swung on the platform, but the bar came off in his hand.

out waiting for it to stop. As he grasped the brass hand-bar he swung on the platform, but the bar came off in his hand. The conductor stared and examined the bar. It had broken like a pipe-stem in the grip of the new Hercules. They thought, of course, that it was a defective piece of metal. But when Theodore, who stood on the platform, grabbed the rail at the top of the dashboard to keep from failing off and that came tearing away like paper, the conductor became angry.

"What kind of a car have they given met?" he cried, and wrenched at the iron rail, but it was as firm as ever. He stopped the car and the motorman came back

rail, but it was as firm as ever. He stopped the car and the motorman came back to look at things.

"It's the poor iron they use," said he, after he had inspected the broken rail.

"Pull that bell," said the conductor to Theodore, and the boy obeyed, but not only the leather strap but even the bell came off in his hands.

"This car's rotten!" cried the conductor.

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"I guess I am too strong to handle such things," said Theodore. "The idea!" retorted the big man. "A kid like you doing that! It's because they put poor material into things nowadays. I suppose you think you could do it again!"

again!"
Theodore pulled gently at the brass brake-handle just to test it, and it straightened out like warm wax. The eyes of the conductor stuck out like door-knobs, but before he got his breath the car went off the track and shot into the ditch on the side of the road. It was fortunate that it was going slowly, or else all of the passengers might have been injured. All sprang out and stood staring at the car as it rested in the dry ditch.
Theodore asked: "Well, what are you going to do now? Will we have to walk to town?"

There will be another along in an

ur," said the conductor. "I am going for the doctor," said Theo-ore, "and can't walt. Let's see if we dore, "and can't wait. Let's see if we can't put her back on the track."
"Nothing but a derrick could do it,"

heodore took hold of the rear platform



"Til do it myself," said Theodore, "and "We have struck an oil weil!" cried compete, he said, at leaping and heavysave the expense."

"We'll need a good many thousand berthose pipes into the ground!" cried his reis," said his father, "for that is what shook like a mass of jelly, and said that

"Enough for to-day!" eried the Sultan giving Theodore the great Turkish diamond medal for hammer-throwing. "Take the medal. You are certainly the best that ever came to Turkey!"

that ever came to Turkey!"

Next day they tried leaping, and while
the Turk was jumping over a ten-foot
bar Theodore jumped right over his head
forty feet higher, and the Turk asked to be allowed to wrestle right then and there. Of course, nobody expected that Theodore could win this time, but since he had shown such strength they knew it would be worth seeing. All of the newspaper men were there from all over the world, as well as all the managers of museums and proprietors of circuses where and proprietors of circuses, who we

and proprietors of circuses, who were anxious to engage Theodore if possible to go with their shows.

When the two appeared and came upon the great crimson carpet to wrestle everybody sighed and said: "It's all up with the kid," for he seemed like a pigmy compared with the enormous Turk, who glared at him savagely, for he of all that crowd was the colly one who will have crowd was the only one who really knew how tremendously strong the boy must be to send that great hammer clear into the river. He looked carefully at him to see if he could detect the secret of his power, but while he saw the belt of Heroules, he supposed that it was only coules. portraits were everywhere. Cigars were named after him and racehorses, bicycles in America. He did not seem as anxious

boat.

The Sultan met him with a grand retinue of gally-dressed courtiers and he was taken to a gorgeous palace, which was to be his dwelling while he remained there. Many slaves were in waiting, and every wish was gratified almost before he expressed it. On the third day the Terribie Turk was brought in the palace.

When he saw Theodore he roared with

This Turk was brought to the palace. The Sultan gave a great dinner that When he saw Theodore he roared with night, and at the table some of his wise

laughter and said:

"What! Am I asked to try my strength against a babe in arms? Bring me a man and I will show you what I am, but don't mock me with infants. Where is the famous Theodore Ginks whom I was to meet?"

"This is the man," said the Sultan, and then he laughed, for it certainly did seem ridiculous to match this boy with the immense Turk, who was seven feet in height and weighed four hundred pounds.

The terrible one cried: "What have I done to be thus insulted?"

Theodore said, in a cool and contemptions voice:

men teld him that now that Theodore was in the land, he ought to invite him to try conclusions with old Scolapps, the seven-handed, two-headed mountain-dweller.

"Why!" exclaimed the surprised Sultan, "I thought Scolapps was dead ages and ges since!"

"No," replied the wiseacres. "He is still alive and doing much damage in Eastern has been carried off during the last two hundred years."

"Is he as old as that?" asked the Sultan.

Theodore said, in a cool and contemptuous voice:

"To judge from the noise you make it seems to me that you are the baby. You look more like a big. fat hippopotamus than a man, anyhow. I guess you are more of an eater than an athlete. Why do they call you the Terrible Turk?"

This, of course, as he had expected, made the Turk very angry, and he rushed at Theodore, but the Sultan cried out that he must wait until they were in the wrestleng-ring to settle it. Now, they must first can throw great rocks as far as one can see, and overwhelms all who seek to reach

see, and overwhelms all who seek to reach him by hurling down ruch gigantic bould-ers upon them that no one has ever ap-proached near enough to him to really at-tack him, and, besides, he has a hide as thick as that of a rhinoceros, which ev

thick as that of a rhinoceros, which even a cannon-ball won't penetrate. It has been tried in old times."

"I'll bet it wouldn't stop a ball if an American gun was tried on him," said Theodore. "But I suppose it would be impossible to get a gun into such a mountainous region."

"Certainly not," said Abdallah Eunn All the sales.

All, the wise man. "Besides, he'd get away into a cavern while you were aiming at him. I think if you went there and tackled him as you did our champlon, you'd 'do him up' in no time."

All the Turks agreed, and the Sultan asked Theodore whether he feared the test he was asked to make. Of course, the how was not afraid, although a seven-

the boy was not afraid, although a seven handed, two-headed monster was more than he had expected ever to have to meet in a contest of strength. Theodore was escorted to Kersaki by a

great company, as if to a picule in the woods, and when they arrived and went as near as they dared to the Cooche Mountains he got on a horse and went up among the gloomy crags and peaks where no human being had gone for per-haps a thousand years. Soon his horse found it impossible to keep his footing, and Theodore went after that on foot until he found himself almost among the clouds, Here he slept, and when the sun rose he was about to climb farther, when he heard a loud noise and looking down he saw, on a ledge below, a horrid figure. Scolapps glanced at him for an instant. as he was surprised to see anything stand up and face him, but he didn't expect to be resisted for a second. He thought that all he had to do was to grab the boy and all would be over. He jumped suddenly at him just to see him shrink, but to his surprise Theodore didn't shrink an inch.

Scolapps was about to receive a dose of astonishment greater than he had ever received in all his life, but I must leave eceived in all his life, but I must leave them both there on the brink of the chasm until next week, for I have no more room on this page to finish this story. WALT McDOUGALL

SUPPOSE every boy and girl has held, and he drew the car out of the heard of Hercules, that Greek hero ditch while all of the passengers stared who was the very strongest man in the world in ancient times, but I imagine that few know what became of him at last. He did so many wonderful deeds that all the world rang with his praises, but all of a sudden he disappeared and was never heard of again. He was trying very hard and, of course, didn't know that he had to be careful with things like that. It took some time to get the car running. It was so badly and was never heard of again. He was known that finally he came to America, by wading have to go with me to the office of the across Behring's Strait, and explored all of our country and thought it the finest of all. those pipes into the ground!" cried his father.

"Don't need any," replied the boy, and he took one of the iron pipes and drove it far into the ground with no more effort than you would a hatpin. Now, his father had thought, on hearing him say monds after that, even on their night that he would do all this, that his son gowns. Theodore prepared to go to colwas crazy, but when he saw him push one pipe down upon another he was too astonished to speak, but stood there with he teit contests and won every time, of which weighed two hundred pounder and three with a heart light the time. He entered for many important events in athletic cluss were after him nearly all the time. He entered for many important events in athletic cluss were after him nearly all the time. He entered for many important events in athletic cluss were after him nearly all the time. He entered for many important events in athletic cluss were after him nearly all the time. He entered for many important events in athletic cluss were after him nearly all the time. He entered for many important events in athletic cluss were after him nearly all the time. He entered for many important events in athletic cluss were after him nearly all the time. He entered for many important events in athletic cluss were after him nearly all the time. He entered for many important events in athletic cluss were after him nearly all the time. He entered for many important events in athletic cluss were after him nearly all the time. He couldn't course. He became the champion high jumper, hammer-thrower, runner, wrestler, he was the champion high jumper, hammer-thrower, runner, wrestler, he was the champion high jumper, hammer-thrower, runner, wrestler, he was the champion high jumper, hammer-thrower, runner, wrestler, he was the champion high jumper, hammer thrower, runner, wrestler, oarsman, in fact, he was the champion high jumper ham and picking up the two-hundred pounder throw the hose of the couldn't count them. In a loud way, so that it field into the Bosphorus sho HOMINY HILL to dry grash he explored it. At the carter spon above, a foundation of the carter of t

THEODORE MEETS THE TWO-HEADED SCOLAPPS ON THE CHASM'S BRINK



A NAUGHTY PUSS ON TRIAL IN FELINETOWN COURT